P.O. Box 2192, Redondo Beach, CA 90278

March, 2016

Next Meeting

Wednesday, March 23 7:00 PM Hermosa Beach Community Center 710 Pier Avenue, Room #4 Hermosa Beach

Program

We have an exciting lineup for our March meeting: We will have a report from those who attended the Democratic Convention last month. In addition, we will feature:

The Citizens Climate Lobby will present their Carbon Fee & Dividend policy to combat global warming

The Hermosa Beach School Board will present details regarding an upcoming school bond referendum and request our endorsement.

Al Muratsuchi For Assembly

Please join us for a reception to send Al back to the Assembly!

Sunday, March 20 4:00 to 6:00 PM At the Redondo Beach home of Dale and Ken Petrulis

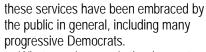
Special Democratic Club Member Rate: \$66 \$250 Bronze Sponsor \$500 Silver Sponsor \$1,000 Gold Sponsor \$2,000 Platinum Sponsor \$4,200 Diamond Sponsor RSVP to 562-981-2111 or email GENELLE.BUCHERT@GMAIL.COM

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The New Deregulation

In the last few years the "gig economy,"

epitomized by services such as Uber and Airbnb, have become the darling of Wall Street and hipsters everywhere. These services generally match available inventory provided by everyday people (i.e., unlicensed providers) with those who seek a service, such as a cheap place to stay or an inexpensive ride across town. Because they vastly expand previously restricted supply (by licensed taxi drivers or hotels), they naturally come at lower cost--Economics 101. And because they use hip new mobile apps and customer-centric ratings systems,



What surprises me is the degree to which my fellow Democrats do not seem to realize the unfairness of such services, and how they undermine worker protections. For example, Democratic Mayor of Los Angeles Eric Garcetti fought hard to allow Uber and Lyft to start picking up passengers at LAX, previously the domain of licensed taxis and limo companies. He acted as if this was a great step forward for us as a city. Even more alarming to me was seeing Lyft listed as a sponsor of the recent California Democratic convention!

Here's my take on this issue. If we don't think regulation of taxicabs or hotels is necessary, then we should eliminate or

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Democratic Activists Stacey Michaels, Dency Nelson, Connie Sullivan, and Ray Waters at the February State Convention in San Jose. Photo courtesy of Stacey Michaels.

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reduce it. Don't make taxi drivers go through stringent background checks, or meet any of the other myriad of extremely detailed regulations Los Angeles taxi drivers must meet (including, believe it or not, what color socks they may wear and whether their hubcaps match).

But it is extremely unfair to suddenly allow another class of amateur drivers with extremely limited oversight and regulation to compete directly against taxi drivers. That is far from a level playing field. It's de facto deregulation of the sloppiest form. As the LA Times wrote in their November 19, 2015 Op-Ed, "A commonsense solution to the Über vs. taxi wars, [Taxi drivers] face a mountain of rules, ranging from sensible to comical and even bizarre, while ride-share upstarts Uber and Lyft operate outside most taxi laws." Furthermore, Uber and Lyft drivers are treated as independent contractors, without benefits or overtime pay or any other workplace protections. I don't see how supporting this shift towards unlicensed, unregulated services is consistent with our Democratic values. It seems to me that this is no different than the folks who prefer to have unregulated free trade so they can buy cheap Chinese tshirts from Walmart over American made union goods that cost more, but support middle class jobs.

Don't get me wrong. I think that Uber and Lyft and the other "rideshare" alternatives to taxis have highlighted the fact that taxi laws have become ossified and are need of reform. And it's certainly put taxi companies on notice that there is ample opportunity to improve on their reputations for service and convenience. I'm not against shaking things up, but I'd like to see us do so in a more thoughtful and fair way.

By the way, there's a terrific app called Curb that works very similarly to Uber that I recommend you try. You download it to your smartphone, and you can hail a cab from anywhere. In my experience they arrive very quickly, comparable to Uber or Lyft. It tracks their progress to meet you,

and you pay from your phone based on a pre-entered card number. You can also rate the taxi driver within the app. Give it a try, and let your elected officials (and party leaders) know that you'd like to see consumer transportation reforms that are equitable and supportive of worker and consumer safety and well being.

Best, Kathryn Campbell President, Beach Cities Democrats

February Recap

Courtesy of Secretary Thomas Kelleher President Kathryn Campbell greeted everyone and noted Vice President Dency Nelson's absence due to family business.

Minutes from the January board meeting, taken by Secretary Thomas Kelleher, were approved unanimously. Treasurer Edna Murphy presented the Treasurer's Report, which was also approved unanimously.

Federal Acct	
Beginning Balance	\$1,806
Money in	\$1,743
Money out	\$695
Ending Balance	\$2854
State Acct	
Beginning Balance	\$386
Money in	0
Money out	\$15
Ending Balance	\$371

Scott Houston, BCD member and a Director of the West Basin Municipal Water District (WBMWD), reported on water conservation efforts in our area. especially in the context of the California drought and Governor Jerry Brown's water use-reduction mandates. WBMWD has been cooperative, using turf removal and drought tolerant landscapes to reduce water use. Even with these measures and a state of the art water recycling plant, the district is still looking for more ways to reduce water use. Among the options they are researching is ocean water desalination. An EIR has been ordered, and Dir. Houston agreed to present the results and hear member



Speaker Scott Houston, Director of West Basin Municipal Water District

concerns this summer when it is released. He noted that the Manhattan Beach City Council had already passed a resolution opposing desalination plants without first meeting with the WBMWD. Houston asked the club to wait to view the Environmental Impact Report and meet with representatives of the district before making decisions about supporting or opposing desal in our district.

Next Joey Apodaca, local field representative for Congressman Ted Lieu, addressed the group. He began by asking for nomination signatures for Ted Lieu's 2016 congressional candidacy. He then discussed the No Money Bail Act of 2016, introduced by Rep. Lieu, which would prevent the wealth of an accused criminal determining whether they could be released pending trial. He also discussed Ted Lieu's advocacy for veterans in Los Angeles. He shared an update about Lieu's investigation of Exxon's and Shell's hiding and manipulation of information about global climate change. He also mentioned that Lieu was named an Internet Freedom Champion by dailydot.com, that he had advocated against live animal training for army medics, and that he praised Obama's proposed budget.

The group then received a

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presentation by Noah Snyder of CA
Clean Money on the Voters' Right to
Know Act & the California DISCLOSE Act
(AB 700). The Voters' Right to Know Act
is a constitutional amendment which
would trace back major contributions to
political advertisements and display the
contributors clearly in the advertisement.
A motion to endorse the initiative and
contribute \$50 to it, made by Tony Hale,
was passed unanimously.

Finally, former Beach Cities Democrats President Tony Hale discussed the 2016 draft platform of the California Democratic Party. Though it is composed of broad strokes, it is a valuable document to read as a Democrat to understand the general stance of the party on the major issues. Furthermore, the California Democratic Party's platform serves as significant input into the national party's platform, and so can be quite influential. The platform will be voted on at the February California Democratic State convention. The platform may be found online at http://www. cadem.org/our-california/platform/2016platform.

President Campbell asked for a motion to adjourn: motion made, seconded and passed unanimously.

The GOP's Frankenstein Monster

The Republican Party is in a full-scale panic about the increasingly likely possibility that Donald J. Trump will be their party's standard-bearer and Presidential nominee. Their most recent nominee gave a highly publicized speech calling him a fraud, the preferred choice of the Establishment Wing repeatedly calls him a con artist, and numerous Republicans are not only saying that his nomination will be the party's undoing, but are refusing to vote for him in November if he wins the nomination. But they should halve thought about this before, because Trump is the monster that they created.

Marco Rubio repeatedly attacks Trump for not having detailed policy plans. When

Trump has said that he will eliminate "the lines around the states" (i.e. allowing insurers to sell unregulated insurance across state lines), Rubio has said that is not a serious plan. And it is not. But Republicans can hardly complain, because in the 6 years since the President signed the ACA, the Republican Congress has voted 62 times to repeal ObamaCare and has never proposed its promised replacement. Eliminating the "lines around the states" has been its only suggestion—and that plan would create a race to the bottom of unregulated junk insurance. In the end, the GOP's proposal for replacing ObamaCare is nothing more than a promise that it will be "beautiful" and a "winner."

At the debate after Super Tuesday, Fox News flashed some fancy graphs on screen to show that Trump's plans to eliminate three cabinet departments would not come even close to paying for his \$10 Trillion tax cut for the rich. Unfortunately, they never did that when Rick Perry proposed similar cuts—not to mention every time now House Speaker Paul Ryan presents a supposedly "responsible" budget plan that creates all the tax cuts for the rich while creating huge deficits. Trump's big response is that his tax cuts will create economic growth, a concept first articulated as part of Reaganomics (or what George H.W. Bush appropriately called "voo-doo economics") and so embedded now in the GOP ideology that they have tried to force the professional economists in the Congressional Budget Office to change how they estimate the budget effects of tax cuts (euphemistically called "dynamic scoring").

Of course, Trump's campaign is built on the most audacious of policy absurdities—exporting 11 million people and building a giant wall along the southern border. For better or worse, deportations have hit a record during the Obama administration—at less than ½ a million per year, almost double the average during the Bush Administration. But only

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Monroe's Corner

There comes a time when we each must call a SPADE a Godawful SHOVEL....



If the best the

Republican party can offer "we the people" is the likes of Donald Trump, then the USA needs to seriously rethink its place in the universe.

The USA today is angry with the lack of direction & leadership from Washington, D.C. Our vaunted democratic system has done nothing to generate better times, better conditions, or better prospects for the future.

We know what the Republicans are against, which is almost any change economically or politically. But no one has any inkling as to what they favor!

Democrat Bernie Sanders has promoted a number of Socialistic inclined actions and favors helping the middle & the bottom of the economic classes. Hillary Clinton has promoted & backed much of what we can all live with, but she as yet has not defined her position on serious matters such as...the Middle East (Islam); China & Asia; Russia & her president Putin; the USA economics (especially the lower & middle classes).

Since we live in dangerous times, with the threat of atomic disasters and possible warfare anywhere at any time, it requires that we be more careful and selective in our choice of a follow-up to Obama.

In my humble opinion, Hillary Clinton is our best choice to set things right, and I'm sure that Bill Clinton will sit at her right hand. I also think that Hillary must come out stronger & tougher than she has to date and spell out clearly her aims & point of view for tomorrow.

Monroe Weinstock

Editor's Note: Many thanks to Lee Fink and Monroe Weinstock for contributing to this issue of BCD. Your additions are greatly appreciated by all!

Moira Zucker

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John Kasich has challenged Trump's promise to increase that by more than 20 times if elected! And of course, the coup de grace of the Trump campaign— making Mexico pay for the Wall. Beyond absurd, by any realistic notion, and continually without any explanation about how it would happen, but Republicans have so convinced their base that the wall is needed, that the just-as-crazy notion of Mexico paying for it is a natural extension that they have not even bothered to challenge.

Exactly what Trump actually believes in—other than himself—is unknown and maybe unknowable. But Trump has taken the Republican playbook to its logical, but extreme, conclusion. Where GOP leaders have practiced dog-whistle messaging to appeal to the racist and xenophobic elements within their party, Trump has dropped all subtext. Rather than talk about border "security," Trump stated outright that Mexicans are rapists and murderers. Rather than subtle hints about terrorism concerns, Trump has called for

an outright ban on all Muslims entering America (even American citizens reentering). And Trump has taken to simply allowing attendees at his rallies to beat up African American protesters. Simply put, Trump saw that Republicans candidates—the front-runners and their running mates, not just backbench losers—were just amateur clowns—but Trump was a professional.

And so, when you hear Mitt Romney call Trump a fraud, or Marco Rubio say that Trump is a con artist, or any Republican tweet the hashtag #NeverTrump, what you are really hearing is just Henry Frankenstein's old howl—"it's alive!"

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